

**Minutes
Snowmobile Advisory Committee
Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Center
Roscommon, Michigan
October 23, 2008**

Chairman Wheatlake called the meeting of the Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SAC) to order at 10:00a.m., Thursday, October 23, 2008, in Roscommon, Michigan.

Members Present:

Frank Wheatlake, Chairman, Business and Community Representative, Reed City
Bill Manson, Region III, Michigan Snowmobile Association (MSA), Grand Rapids
Bill Lucas, Region II, MSA, Cadillac
Orville Olson, Representative at Large, Ludington
Jim Duke, Region I MSA, Munising
Lee Murray, At-Large, Hopkins
Richard Filley, Trail Sponsors Representative, Grayling

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Rose Ingram, USDA, Huron-Manistee National Forest

Staff Present:

Lynne Boyd, Chief, Forest Mineral and Fire Management (FMFM), Lansing
Jim Radabaugh, State Trails Coordinator, FMFM, Lansing
Steve DeBrabander, State Trails Unit Manager, FMFM, Lansing
Mike Paluda, Upper Peninsula Field Coordinator, FMFM, Marquette
Loretta Cwalinski, FMFM, Gaylord

Mr. Wheatlake welcomed everyone. The Committee, DNR staff and the audience introduced themselves.

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 26, 2008 SAC meeting were acknowledged.

Motion was made by Mr. Lucas seconded by Mr. Mr. Duke to adopt the minutes of the June 26, 2008 meeting. Motion for adoption unanimously carried.

Mr. Wheatlake opened by saying that he and Ms. Boyd recently met with MSA President Mr. Don Reed and Mr. Jim Dickey to discuss past decisions and issues of the SAC, and decided what has been done is done, and for everyone to move forward.

OLD BUSINESS

New Trail Sponsor Grooming Equipment Eligibility (define participate) - **Mr. Lucas** updated everyone on the stance the SAC took of not approving Thumbs Up to be considered an existing club, but the Department decided to move forward with the approval. **Mr. Duke** said that the mileage that was given to Allegan was taken from

West Michigan Snowmobile Council (WMSC) even though the WMSC were performing as they were supposed to. **Mr. Manson** agreed and mentioned in the Handbook the rules on not taking a trail away to give to another group. Allegan did a great job last year, but why not treat the Thumbs Up club equally?

Mr. Radabaugh said the Department viewed that differently - Allegan was part of the WMSC, and they did the work and reporting, and considered as historically fulfilling those requirements. Thumbs Up had been in discussion in getting easements etc, and last year was the official entrance into the program. Discussion continued. The one issue that didn't qualify was that new clubs need to be in the program for two years. There was a history with Allegan.

Mr. Manson disagreed and said that that history was with WMSC. **Mr. Wheatlake** asked how to go forward from this point. **Mr. Olson** said that since we are struggling for sponsors, we should make the exception as good business sense. **Mr. Radabaugh** wanted clarification on the time frame to be accepted. Discussion continued. **Mr. Wheatlake** wanted the decision – should you have the group demonstrate capability first or let groups join due to necessity? **Mr. Manson** asked that perhaps a vote would be good. The policy in existence is good, but the interpretation is in question. **Ms. Boyd** asked what the SAC's interpretation is so we can move forward. **Mr. Olson** said that it does need to be decided and worded so there are no gray areas in understanding. **Mr. Lucas** suggested that the term Trail Sponsor needs to be looked at. He feels everyone should have to have groups new to another group or council, and they need to start from the beginning to prove themselves.

Mr. Manson read from the handbook the qualifications for becoming a grant sponsor.

Mr. Manson recommended a motion be made. Suggestions were:

1. A new trail sponsor to the program may be eligible for new equipment or equipment reimbursement after one year of proving capability.
2. The Department, after a one year review of a new grant sponsor, shall determine whether a group demonstrates eligibility.

Mr. Wheatlake asked that staff come up with the verbiage and present to SAC in December for review.

Mr. Murray recommended discussion be tabled until December. **Mr. Olson** supported.

Wheatlake – Aye

Manson – Aye

Duke – Aye

Olson – Aye

Lucas – Aye

Murray – Aye

Filley -- Aye

Mr. DeBrabander clarified that particular rule for program support of grooming equipment was in the Grant Handbook.

Snowmobile Grooming Equipment Audit – **Mr. Wheatlake** said the audit has been completed and there is a documented complete list available. He mentioned appreciation for all the work that the clubs have done and that everything has been

verified. In addition, Phase 2 trail permits will be verified mid – December - there will be recommendations at that time, and the Committee will get a copy. This may not be done by the next meeting.

Maintenance of Multiple Use ORV/Snowmobile Trails – **Mr. DeBrabander** addressed the need for using ORV funds to repair snowmobile/ORV trails - \$50,000 each for the Upper Peninsula and Lower Peninsula. He also asked to have the clubs work with local contacts if it's clearly ORV damage, that money may be available. There are no ORV funds for private land damage, as that is illegal use.

Mr. Wheatlake pointed out that there are various funds available, with support and agreement from those other groups, but to just make sure the funds are used legally.

Mr. Manson asked if there had been any additional snowmobile/ORV trails added last year in the Lower Peninsula – no. Discussion continued.

Rogers City South Spur Update – **Mr. DeBrabander** said that staff was to meet with the new owners of the quarry. On July 24th Wolverine Power, Carmeuse Group and Department staff discussed the trail, and the new owners seemed very receptive to an alternate trail but not through the working area of the quarry. Carmeuse will be meeting with Rogers City staff and will be getting back with the Department after that meeting occurs. They are hoping for permanent rights in the land. The club hadn't met with Carmeuse yet, and they are working on a meeting with John Houk to contribute to the trail input.

M-65 Update – **Mr. Manson** reported they are finally seeing progress. Bill O'Neill, Lower Peninsula Field Coordinator, had submitted an update that the trail is currently being stalled by Iosco Parks and Recreation and issues with Consumer's Power. Iosco County said they are waiting to hear from Consumer's Power. Hopefully the trail will be open for foot traffic next summer.

Ms. Ingram added that she was just advised that there's a package submitted to Consumer's Power, and it will then be submitted to FERC. Also, the scoping is old and the USFS section will be re-scoped. Jim Berneer is the contact at Consumer's Power.

Law Enforcement Grants – **Ms. Boyd** advised that last summer there was a budget discussion for funding, but unfortunately there's a zero fund balance into this year. There will be a reduction to that fund, about a million dollar cut. As written, the grants to the County Sheriff's cannot be given due to fund reductions. The grants will be cut, and resent. Michigan Sheriff's Association has been notified along with several legislators. The program has been consolidated to FMFM for tracking and there is a flow chart that shows the steps of the current process.

Mr. Manson asked why we budget for over a million dollars but spend only \$700,000.

Mr. Duke asked about the percentage of cuts for this year. **Mr. Radabaugh** was not sure of that percentage, as they were currently being recalculated by FMFM Program Services staff.

Mr. Wheatlake explained that the books are not closed until November, so that information is not quite available yet. Questions were raised on where the program is headed – law enforcement should have their needs met, but why is there more available

to DNR law enforcement than for the general enforcement fund? He advised that those monies are distributed according to statute. **Ms. Boyd** will revisit that with the supplier of that information on the discrepancy and will advise SAC when she receives that information. Discussion continued.

NEW BUSINESS

Grant Program Transfer – **Mr. Radabaugh** reported the grants administration function of the ORV trails, snowmobile trails, enforcement and education programs have been transferred from Grant Management to Forest, Mineral and Fire Management. The transfer included employee Maureen Houghton. One new account technician position will be established to fulfill payment functions. This realignment is hoped to result in administrative efficiencies.

Ms. Boyd said that there will be no increased costs to the Division. Comment was raised if there will be mostly festival enforcement, or will there be funding for trails? **Ms. Boyd** said that enforcement has been stepped up at the Mullet Lake stretch, and additional officers have been added. **Mr. Murray** was hoping the Law Enforcement Subcommittee could be more involved in the meeting with Sheriff's Departments and staff.

Mr. DeBrabander said that as far as he knows those meetings were not held after all this past summer.

2007-08 Snowmobile Fatality Report – **Mr. Radabaugh** reported that Law Enforcement Division had sent along their report and included that for the Committee.

Mr. Murray said that this is the best and most complete report they have ever received, and a thank you should go to Lt. Andy Turner. **Mr. Wheatlake** reviewed the report.

Mr. Radabaugh said that he will make sure the report is posted on the website at www.michigan.gov/dnr. Comment was noted that there is a discrepancy with the Upper Peninsula and Lower Peninsula fatalities.

Contract Grooming – **Mr. DeBrabander** said he was not aware of contracted grooming by the Department in the past and discussed Gaylord's requirements and getting that trail groomed. Staff made the decision to contract that 74 mile stretch and one bid was sent in.

Mr. Wheatlake clarified that the Department will follow Department of Management and Budget (DMB) rules.

Mr. DeBrabander said that yesterday the decision was made to re-bid for that contract since there was only one bid turned in. The Departments' goal is to have more than one bid and also to have that trail open by the snowmobiling season. There will be no mandatory pre-bid meeting this time.

Mr. Duke asked if the grooming will be done to the specifications that the clubs are held to.

Mr. DeBrabander explained there will be some flexibility since weather is unpredictable. Brushing and signing will not be part of it, but there are no standards listed currently. The contractor will be held to the same standards for grooming, and there will possibly be two contracts. Discussion continued as to the penalties if the work is not done following the standards and concern for equality. Reimbursement could be more on the bid process than what grant sponsors bid. The bids will be made available to the public after award.

Mr. Manson mentioned concerns that it won't be revisited if the contract is way above the volunteer groomers, and would like to see SAC involvement in those decisions. **Mr. Wheatlake** clarified that if the contract is out of par, it will be looked at. The process will be brought back to the next meeting.

Motorized Trail Study – **Mr. Radabaugh** said there's a handout in the Committee's package reference the study with MSU for ORV and snowmobile impacts. There are 11 objectives with profiles, use patterns, age of user etc. Dr. Charles Nelson will be attending December meeting with an update on the study process.

Trail Signs for Motorized Trails – **Mr. DeBrabander** updated the Committee on a workgroup he chaired with internal DNR staff, mostly field staff who'd met a few times. The group looked at the signage requirements for both snowmobiles and ORV trails and discussed where combinations could be made. They put together recommendations on those differences and submitted a report to FMFM Management Team and the Office of Litigation. It will go back to Management Team and will have detail for SAC and ORV Advisory Board for their review. Their recommendation is to go with the smaller sign, along with other recommendations. Should be cost savings and less work effort.

Mr. Wheatlake asked the staff for an update of pre-season meetings. **Mr. DeBrabander** reported there was a staff only pre-season meeting this year. There were ten meetings, four with staff and trail sponsors. Their goal is to work on communication and consistency efforts and staff feels they are very worthwhile.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant - Cheboygan to Alpena – **Mr. Wheatlake** explained that the trail will be upgraded with aggregate, and that credit should be given to the Department for their efforts in submitting and receiving a \$500,000 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant. Several local governments have provided approximately \$150,000 additional funding.

Mr. Radabaugh added that MDOT is providing engineering assistance and the balance of the project funding.

Mr. Lucas said that the Gaylord to Mackinaw Trail is not to signage specs, they are to highway standards. The Mullett Lake section was allowed to deviate.

Mr. Wheatlake explained the Trust Fund royalties and how money is divided.

Legislative Update – **Mr. Manson** referenced the two bills currently in the Senate; #1489 is to increase registration renewal fees to \$30 and the \$8 increase to be put into Permanent Snowmobile Trail Easement Sub-account, #1490 is for the trail permit fee increase from \$25 to \$50 in 2009 and 2010, \$60 in 2011, 2012 and 2013, and \$75 in 2014 and each subsequent year (with a \$15 discount if purchased before November 15th). Some of that language is being cleaned up.

MSA mailed out 90,000 flyers explaining the deficit of the program if the increase does not happen. 82 % of the members are for the changes so far. 80% non-members agree with the changes.

Ms. Boyd said that the Department is in favor of a fee increase, but it really doesn't address the law enforcement problem. She added that a ten year plan is a good idea.

Mr. Olson said that the original five year plan was created before the gas price increase and the reduction of registration fees collected. It may be difficult to stick with since the economy has fluctuated so much. One warning is that once statute is set, it is very difficult to get it changed.

Mr. Wheatlake wanted to advise the problems that the NRC has had; they've been asked to prepare budgetary numbers to share with the legislature and DMB. **Ms. Boyd** said by November 11th for Fiscal year beginning 2010.

Mr. Manson said that a \$10 increase for fees will only put a plug in the problem. Discussion continued.

Mr. Wheatlake said that \$10 is probably going to be the maximum that is accepted and at this point there is no way for law enforcement funding. The Department has to project to five and ten years.

Mr. Olson said that this increase should have been done years ago, and that Michigan is way behind. Ten years ago, the plan put together worked, but at this mark, it needs to be done.

Mr. Manson said that maybe all LED monies for law should go to other enforcement.

Mr. Duke said that in Alger County, the sheriff's department cannot get their staff back unless there is a for sure grant for enforcement. Committee wants to have that equipment and enforcement funding.

Ms. Boyd asked for the ten year plan to be submitted. **Mr. Wheatlake** added that it is a user funded basis, no general funds. Discussion continued.

Ms. Boyd advised that they are not under the assumption that this will be passed, and their backup plan is to include it in the budget. Legislation must be in place by April 2009.

Mr. Wheatlake wants the SAC to take a position – should the Committee and MSA come up with a new plan for 2009?

Mr. Olson suggested that staff and SAC work together. **Mr. Lucas** and **Mr. Manson** will gather and get it to **Ms. Boyd** for the Governor's consideration.

Mr. Wheatlake asked for comments from the public. A comment from an Ogemaw Hills member to start looking at 75/25 cost share for grooming equipment.

STAFF REPORTS

FMFM Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Advisory Board – **Mr. Wheatlake** appointed Mr. Manson to represent the SAC on the Recreational Trail Program Advisory Committee. They meet once a year and provide advice to the Department on projects funded through the RTP program.

Pre-Season Meetings – Already covered earlier by **Mr. DeBrabander**.

Extended warranties on 100% funded equipment - Groomers asked if there was support for the program to extend warranties. Staff looked at that idea, and it's an item that should be funded. Staff wants to get advice from SAC.

Mr. Manson supports warranties, seconded by **Mr. Lucas**.

Mr. DeBrabander added that the trail sponsor would cover the deductible – a two year warranty was an example he has seen.

Mr. Larry Marzean, Alpena Snowmobile Association said that his research for three or more years is cost prohibitive. Additional 200 hours, cost \$3500. Question was raised if for current equipment only or new equipment?

Mr. DeBrabander agrees with all equipment that is funded at 100%, new and currently owned, and that for two years it's for catastrophic repairs only. He wants more discussion.

Mr. Murray said that he's in favor of anything that will save the program money but wants to know if this is feasible and wants to see more study. Discussion continued.

Mr. Wheatlake feels that it should be on a case by case basis.

Mr. Lucas agreed to a five year program (seven year total) - catastrophic and trucking.

Mr. Murray wants approval to fund the insurance program. **Mr. Olson** said a little more time would be good to decide on what would work.

Mr. Marzean said that an additional five years is feasible for their equipment. Equipment costs will vary though, with warranties and companies.

Mr. Manson made a motion to pay for extended warranty on existing and new equipment. **Mr. Lucas** seconded the motion. Comment made for five years beyond original warranty. Discussion continued if there should be a cap, was suggested to discuss at next meeting or before the new grant handbook – before May 1st (not included in motion). In addition, to add that the sponsors should mention whatever warranty they are looking into.

Wheatlake – Aye
Manson – Aye
Duke – Aye
Olson – Aye
Lucas – Aye

Murray – Aye

Filley -- Aye

Mr. DeBrabander reported that they are reorganizing the snowmobile website to make it easier for groomers to use.

There are 41 executed grants that have been sent to the trail sponsors and sent back. The remainders are in various stages. Fourteen of those were not ready for the last Administrative Board meeting. They will be ready to groom the trails in time.

Mr. Olson discussed the Recreation Specialist reports - he asked for specific updates on bridges in Todd Neiss' area. The bridges probably won't be open this season. Projected completion date, funding, etc. would be nice to have included on the report.

Mr. Lucas asked about the Snow Country Trails grade in Irons - **Mr. Radabaugh** said that they had not received a copy of the request for reimbursement on the eight mile portion from the club. Back in 2006 they were granted adverse possession at the time, not all the paperwork was done, but the grooming they've done should be recognized. They were trying to get the land control issue resolved, but the paperwork was not taken care of. It is our grade, and it should be recognized by the Department to be paid for the last two year's grooming.

Mr. Wheatlake wants Mr. Lucas' group to meet with the Department and real estate folks to discuss. **Mr. Radabaugh** said he needs the confirmation of land control on two parcels of the proposal - that is all. No new trail proposal is needed.

Mr. Olson said that some of the grant sponsors have requested that the budget information be put on the website for the snowmobile program appropriations. **Mr. Radabaugh** will look into that.

Mr. Duke said that they are keeping an eye on the Chocoley Township trail – they are looking for a millage to get perhaps blacktop put down. They are still in litigation.

Mr. Wheatlake referenced the equipment evaluation and to come up with specifications on how to get that done. Discussion continued on piston pulleys and typical applications for various snow levels.

Mr. Manson asked that if equipment keeps going up every year, should there be a cap on purchasing?

Mr. DeBrabander will follow up with **Mr. Manson** to make sure staff has all the information on leasing and specifications. **Mr. DeBrabander** said there's lots of variables that need decided upon.

Mr. Don Reed, President, MSA, said he will get all that information sent to **Mr. DeBrabander** soon.

Mr. Wheatlake asked if the RAM Center is an acceptable venue for the meetings in 2009. Facility is acceptable, no comments from crowd.

Mr. Manson made the suggestion to put the ordering of lunch on the invitation/agenda.

An additional comment was made from the public attendees that it's too far for the western Upper Peninsula folks to drive to. The location will be looked at.

The next meeting is at Sidney's Restaurant, upstairs in the Grand Island room, Munising, Michigan on December 11th at 9am.

Mr. Paluda said that reference the issue of the landowners barricading part of the trail near Houghton, the courts have ordered those property owners to remove the barricades by this Friday. He also noted that the Forest Certification folks have zoned in on the trail systems and their concerns of conflicts. He wanted to thank Don Reed for taking the time to go to Drummond Island and work concerns out.

US Forest Service – Rose Ingram, USDA, Huron-Manistee National Forest reported for Anne Okonek, Hiawatha National Forest and said they've repaired most gates that were vandalized over the summer. Huron-Manistee National Forest, Mio Ranger District reports that the Lupton Trail should be open for this season. The decision for the Alcona County Snowmobile Trail on the Huron Shores Ranger District is expected to be complete by mid-November. Also, the 56th Street re-route update - the Baldwin Ranger wrote a letter to the group that he was no longer pursuing a decision at the current location.

Mr. Manson said he didn't think it looked like wetlands when he went there. He felt that deer tracks were doing more damage to the vegetation than the snowmobile trail. He's frustrated how each route gets shut down, it's been going on for nine years. Landowner has approved his property to be used, and since it is winter, for snowmobiling it won't be wet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bud Martin, Ogemaw Hills Snow Club said that they have been trying to get the Lupton Trail spur on a plat map since June. They turned in their request in early July, and found out a few weeks ago it was not completed yet. Tuesday they got the plat map and were requested to redo the trail proposal. It won't be groomed this year as far as he knows. He then added he's frustrated with the contact folks in FMFM.

Ms. Ingram said it sounds like it's a Forest Service issue; Ken Hanson in Mio is their contact person – he indicated to her that it will be open this season.

Mr. DeBrabander added that the trail proposal documentation was never complete.

Mr. Bud Longroy, St. Helen Snow Packers has everything in and just submitted final package to field contact two days ago. It's 100% on federal land, but **Mr. DeBrabander** said that it may not be done. Still should be reviewed by archaeological etc. Discussion continued. **Mr. DeBrabander** will check into it.

Mr. Martin also added a comment on Trail 6 – he has appealed after denials.

Mr. DeBrabander said it goes over a glacial outwash with a large hill full of rocks. Those rocks continue to resurface every season and will continue to do so. Estimate was given of \$40,000 this year or every other year. Staff decided this was not a wise

use of program funds. This section will not be groomed. Discussion continued. The Department stands behind the decision - it is not prudent to spend that much money on that 6/10 (of a mile?) of trail. Proposed was \$38,000 to fix it.

Mr. Wheatlake asked if we could make a request from the Trust Fund. It would fall under development of the trail. Is it realistic to ask for it? **Mr. Radabaugh** said that they would be directed to other funds first, RTP etc. **Mr. Manson** said perhaps to get matched funds? **Mr. Wheatlake** feels we are at an impasse – can it be rerouted at all?

Mr. Ken Scott, Gogebic Area Grooming Inc. said that technically they are not to brush or sign, but if the group has a special maintenance agreement – not to brush until September or October. ORV trails get damaged all year. They are out brushing and signing now and noticing ORV damage, but money won't be available until January. Is there any way to get funding when it's needed?

Mr. DeBrabander said there is a way. It is a designated ORV trail, and on public land, there should be funds more timely available. They will discuss after the meeting.

Mr. Tom Gallagher, St. Helen Snowpackers wanted to know what the life of their signs should be. The Department bids out on the signs with certain requirements, and runs those signs through tests they should last through normal wear and tear. **Mr. Gallagher** said that he's got signs that are peeling badly. He feels 40 or 50% need replacing. He also commented that drags do wear out and added that before you groom, you need to contact your field contact person. The same goes with brushing and signing. Their club feels like they are having a problem with their contact person - they are supposed to contact their field person every time they brush and sign, he feels that is very unreasonable. They are not communicating well with the new contact.

Ms. Gail Scott, Gogebic Area Grooming Inc. wanted to say she's disappointed on the economic study and that it's lumped in with other groups. Regarding the grooming contract – she's upset that the Department is contracting the miles in Gaylord. Did the Department contact adjacent clubs first? Seems like a difficult task at getting bids in time to get the contract in place to groom? She wants the SAC to see the contract as well.

Mr. DeBrabander said there are sponsors that pay volunteers. **Mr. Radabaugh** noted the study was halted for several reasons over the years which were out of the Department's hands. The studies will be separate, but overall data combined. Results should be complete by early summer for the snowmobile segment.

Mr. Wheatlake said we do have the statutory authority to contract out the grooming but the SAC cannot see the contract until it's awarded. Jordan Valley agreed to take a certain portion, but not enough for the whole section unless in trade for a brand new groomer. He agreed this route may not be the way to go, but the effort is being made to find out.

Mr. Marzean said there was a John Deere tractor in Gaylord, and it's gone. He was asked to get the serial number and he agreed he will.

Mr. Wheatlake said the auditor has all the equipment accounted for that was ever available.

Mr. Marzean said that Indian River was not contacted to groom, and was aware of one other group that wasn't either.

Mr. Radabaugh said they talked to Lewiston, Grayling and Indian River, but all had conditions.

Mr. Reed discussed the offer to privatize grooming and said that he knows for a fact that Indian River group was not contacted to groom Gaylord's trail. He mentioned that a lot of the concerns discussed here today are a matter of perception, and that needing to contact the field contact before brushing and signing is ridiculous. He also asked if the program is going to pay the entity on the Iron's trail. **Mr. Radabaugh** will give the information provided today by Mr. Lucas. to the right-of-way people but he needs to review all those details. Discussion continued on providing full information and resolving payment questions. **Mr. Radabaugh** and **Mr. Wheatlake** will get an answer tomorrow reference the Irons payment.

Mr. Marzean commented about no activity in the quarry and said we need to get the trail in there - it's been long enough. Also, they have $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile that was damaged last year on a trail; the issue was that maintenance is their problem. He feels that money should come back to the groomer from the timber contract for repairs. **Mr. Wheatlake** will discuss with **Ms. Boyd**.

Mr. Bob Eller, Alpena Snowmobile Association has been talking with COs and Sheriff's Department about decibels and how to read decibels. Should their club go pick up a Radio Shack model? Is there a standard the state goes by? **Mr. Filley** asked what the actual procedure is: The distance from the sled is to be 157.5 inches (or 4 meters), 48" above the ground and must read 88 or under to pass, with doing the test twice and getting an average. **Mr. Manson** said LED should take the lead on this because word obviously has not gotten out.

Mr. Jim Dickie, MSA asked that if the contract does go through for Gaylord, who would be the contact person – that would be Don Klingler, Fire and Recreation Supervisor. He questioned about conservation easements and getting wording in the agreements regarding snowmobile trails.

Mr. Rodney Altman, Presque Isle Snow Trails commented that the funds from Cheboygan to Alpena, half is from snowmobile money - he'd like to see a CO sitting there writing tickets. On the Black Mountain connector there was a study to be done in March, and DEQ is reviewing the application. Any idea where they are at? In addition he asked about the Topinabee trail Cheboygan to Indian River and the decision by Director's Order to keep the trail open. Is anyone paying user fees to County Road Commissions? Certain roads can be used as trails now and their road commissioner wanted to charge a user fee. Their area wants to charge \$10.

Mr. Wheatlake said it might be prudent to discuss with local governments about the trails on county roads.

Mr. Altman made reference to grooming and letting their contact person know. Their contact does not look at e-mail enough to get the notice in time of when they're doing the work. **Mr. DeBrabander** will get in touch with the Onaway contact and see if it couldn't work better for record keeping purposes.

Mr. Altman also added that they have a 2001 tractor with no service record. They had issue with their last transmission repair and don't want any surprises with the latest DNR tractor they received. **Mr. Manson** advised to get with **Mr. DeBrabander** and he will work with them on an individual basis.

Mr. Bill Stegenga, Sales Manager with Bader & Sons for John Deere said that the Department prices expire April 1, 2009, but they will get it renewed. The cost of steel has gone up and will probably increase at least 10%, so get your purchases in by then for the lower prices. Eight groomers will be purchased and Richard Kennedy will forward to Grants soon. There is funding available.

Mr. DeBrabander said in response to Mr. Reed's question, that there are no guidelines on the drags. He also added that the equipment should not be more extensive than necessary to do the job.

NEXT MEETING

Next SAC meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2008 at Sydney's Restaurant, 400 Cedar Street, Munising, Michigan, 49862.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Public Present:

Nancy Locatis, Allegan Co. Snow Club	Don Carroll, Ogemaw Hills Snow Club
Jim Conley, Allegan Co. Snow Club	Andy Ulman, Chippewa Snow Chasers
Herb Lawson, PI Snow Trls, Rogers City	Ed Carlson, Chippewa Snow Chasers
Rodney Altman, PI Snow Trails	Tom Gallagher, St. Helen Snowpackers
Larry Marzan, Alpena Snowmobile Assoc.	Dick Stehle, Benzie Manistee Snowbirds
Bob Eller, Alpena Snowmobile Assoc.	Jim Dingman, Trailriders
Jim Dickie, MSA	Al Green, Cadillac Winter Promotions
Ken Scott, Gogebic Area Grooming Inc.	Bradly Potter, Western MI Snow Council
Gail Scott, Gogebic Area Grooming Inc.	Keith Litchfield, Badra & Sons John Deere
Ed McHugh, St. Helen Snow Packers	
Bob Moll, Houghton Lk Trialblazers	
Bud Martin, Ogemaw Hills Snow Club	
John L. Hunny, Ogemaw Hills Snow Club	
Dave Dematoker, Ogemaw Hills Snow	
Norm Rockwell, Ogemaw Hills Snow Club	